

### **Public Comment Analysis**

Date: December 10, 2013

Topic: The Proposed Re-Siting and Co-location of P.S. 290 A.C.E. Academy for Scholars at the Geraldine Ferraro Campus (24Q290) with P.S. Q277 (75Q277@Q290), a District 75 School, in New Building Q290 Beginning in the 2014-2015 School Year

Date of Panel Vote: December 11, 2013

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### **Summary of Proposal**

The New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) is proposing to re-site and co-locate P.S. 290 A.C.E. Academy for Scholars at the Geraldine Ferraro Campus (24Q290, “P.S. 290”) in new building Q290 (“Q290”), located at 55-20 Metropolitan Avenue, Queens, NY 11378, within the geographical confines of Community School District 24 (“District 24”), with P277@Q290 (75Q277@Q290, “P277@Q290”), one site of an existing multi-site District 75 (“D75”) school beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. P.S. 290 is an existing unzoned elementary school that currently serves students in kindergarten through third grades in building Q873 (“Q873”), located at 70-02 54 Avenue, Queens, NY 11378, within the geographical confines of District 24. P.S. 290 is phasing in to serve grades kindergarten through five at scale and is currently co-located in Q873 with I.S. 73 The Frank Sansivieri Intermediate School (24Q073, “I.S. 73”), an existing middle school serving grades six through eight. Q873 is a mini-building located adjacent to main building Q073. A “re-siting” means that a school will be located in a different building than the building it is currently located in. A “co-location” means that two or more school organizations are located in the same building, often sharing large common spaces like the auditorium, gymnasium, and cafeteria.

If this proposal is approved, P.S. 290 will be re-sited to its long-term location in new building Q290 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. P.S. 290 will no longer serve any students in Q873 after the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year, and will serve all its students in Q290 beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. P.S. 290 will serve kindergarten through fourth grade in Q290 in 2014-2015, and reach full scale in Q290 serving grades kindergarten through five in 2015-2016. P277@Q290 is a new D75 program that, if this proposal is approved, will open in September 2014 in Q290 where it will be co-located with P.S. 290. P277@Q290 will serve students with an Individualized Education Program (“IEP”) classification of multiple disabilities and autism. P277@Q290 is projected to serve approximately 50 - 60 students in grades kindergarten through five beginning in the 2014 - 2015 school year.

Building Q290 is a new site currently under construction by the School Construction Authority (“SCA”), and construction is anticipated to be completed by September 2014. The re-siting of P.S. 290 is contingent upon the completion of this new building. The new building also includes designed space for a D75 school. According to the SCA, new building Q290 has the target capacity to serve 616 students. If this proposal is approved, the projected enrollment in 2014-2015 of P.S. 290 at Q290 will be approximately 330 - 380 kindergarten through fourth grade students, and the projected enrollment of P277@Q290 will be approximately 50 - 60 kindergarten through fifth grade students. This will result in a total projected building enrollment of 380 - 440 students, yielding a building utilization rate of 62% - 71%. In the 2015-2016 school year, when P.S. 290 has reached full-scale serving students in grades kindergarten through five, there will be a total of approximately 465 - 535 students in building Q290, yielding a projected building utilization rate of 75% - 87%. P.S. 290 will complete phasing-in all grades in 2015-2016; however, as a result of the rezoning, the current kindergarten class is smaller than future projected incoming classes. Therefore, P.S. 290 will reach stable enrollment in 2019-2020 with 500-560 students in grades kindergarten through five. Once P.S. 290 is at stable enrollment in 2019-2020, P.S. 290 and P277@Q290 are projected to serve a total of 550 - 620 students in building Q290, yielding an estimated building utilization rate of 89% - 101%.

P.S. 290 is currently an existing unzoned elementary school. On October 22, 2013, the District 24 Community Education Council (“CEC”) approved a plan to create a P.S. 290 elementary school zone within the geographical confines of District 24. The admissions process at P.S. 290 will change in September 2014 to be a zoned elementary school serving students residing in the Q290 zone. The change in the admissions process at P.S. 290 will allow for alleviation of overcrowding at schools in the immediate area of building Q290. Should Q290 not open in September 2014, the DOE will reassess its plans for P.S. 290.

The details of this proposal have been released in the EIS which can be accessed here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/publicnotice/2013-2014/December2013SchoolProposals>.

Copies of the Educational Impact Statement (“EIS”) are also available in the main office of P.S. 290.

### **Summary of Comments Received**

A joint public hearing regarding the proposal was held at Q073 on December 3, 2013. At this hearing, interested parties had an opportunity to provide input on the proposal. No members of the public attended the hearing, and no members of the public signed up to speak. Present at the meeting were District 24 Community Superintendent Madelene Chan; P.S. 290 School Leadership Team (“SLT”) representative Principal Mieasia Harris and Assistant Principal Shaun Porter; P277@Q290 SLT representative Principal Susan McNulty and Assistant Principal Angele Pomo; and Emily Ades and Dean Guzman from the DOE’s Division of Portfolio Planning. Community Education Council 24 was invited but did not participate in the hearing due to an unforeseen circumstance.

There were no comments and remarks made at the joint public hearing on December 3, 2013 regarding the proposal.

### **Summary of Issues Raised in Written and/or Oral Comments Submitted to the DOE regarding the proposal**

There were two written comments submitted to the DOE regarding this proposal.

- 1) District 24 Community Education Council expressed opposition to the co-location of P.S. 290 with P277@Q290 because the additional D75 program in Q290 will utilize space in the building that could otherwise be used for District 24 students.
- 2) One commenter asked if students currently enrolled in the Gifted and Talented program at P.S. 290 will continue to be enrolled at P.S. 290 once the school has been re-sited.

### **Analysis of Issues Raised, Significant Alternatives Proposed and Changes Made to the Proposal**

Comment 1 opposes the co-location of P.S. 290 with P277@Q290 because the additional D75 capacity in Q290 will utilize space in the building that could otherwise be used for District 24 students.

The DOE recognizes the need for additional elementary school seats in District 24. However, currently there are approximately 934 D75 students residing in District 24. Of the D75 students residing in District 24, approximately 573 attend a D75 program outside of District 24. Therefore, there is a high need for additional D75 seats within the geographical confines of District 24 that can serve D75 students residing in District 24. As stated in the EIS, according to the Program of Requirements from the SCA, Q290 has designed D75 space which includes 6 full-size rooms, 1 half-size room, and 0.75 full-size equivalent (“FSE”) of administrative space. The projected enrollment of P277@Q290 will be approximately 50 - 60 kindergarten through fifth grade students.

Comment 2 asks if students currently enrolled in the Gifted and Talented program at P.S. 290 will continue to be enrolled at P.S. 290 once the school has been re-sited.

Students currently enrolled at P.S. 290 in the Gifted and Talented program will remain enrolled once the school has been re-sited to the new building. As per Chancellor’s Regulation A-101, students currently enrolled at P.S. 290 have the right to remain at P.S. 290 through the fifth grade. As stated in the EIS, this proposal is not expected to impact the Gifted & Talented admissions process.



### **Changes Made to the Proposal**

No changes have been made to the proposal.